THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI) is located at Shimla. It has seven Regional Stations located in different States of the country. They are at Modipuram (UP), Jalandhar (Punjab), Gwalior (MP), Patna (Bihar), Kufri/Fagu (HP), Ooty (Tamil Nadu) and Shillong (Meghalaya). Under AH India Coordinated Research Project, there are 20 centres. Five centres under ICAR and fifteen centres under SAUs.

(b) There are major Potato production centers in ten States of the country, *viz.* Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and in Gujarat.

(c) Initially the basic (diseases free) seed is produced through meristem tip-culture and stem cuttings from disease free plants, then growing them in polyhouse under aphid free conditions. This disease free seed is planted in the fields. This crop is tested by ELISA and thorough rouging is done. Breeders seed so produced is supplied to State Government departments for further multiplication as Foundation I, II and III seed for supply to farmers for growing certified seeds.

(d) The crop is tested for virus detection techniques like ELISA, ISEM and NASH. Roughing is taken up throughout the growth period to avoid disease/pest appearance and prevent deterioration of seed and mixture of potato varieties. At CPRI healthy stocks of varieties are grown through nucleus to breeders seed stages by ways of better management and taking all precautions in seed production.

Subsidized items

579. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the items on which subsidies are given to farmers by the Central Government and State Governments separately;

(b) whether this subsidy is taken into account while fixing the Minimum Support Price to be paid to farmers of their produce; and

(c) the number of small farmers who are benefited out of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Subsidies are given by both the Central and State Governments. Central Government gives subsidies on fertilizers, seeds, machinery etc. under various schemes while State Governments give subsidies for irrigation, power etc. In some cases the financial burden on subsidy is shared between the Centre and the States.

(b) Wherever subsidy is given by the Government for agricultural inputs, it is reflected in the input prices, which are taken into account in the computation of cost of cultivation for the purpose of determining Minimum Support Price for various agricultural commodities.

(c) Under some schemes subsidies are given to all farmers while under some other schemes subsidies are given only to small/marginal farmers. As the number of small farmers is estimated at around 22 million, the number of small farmers who stand to benefit from the subsidy may be taken at around 22 million. However, the actual number of small farmers who benefit from the subsidy may vary depending on the nature and scope of the scheme.

Projects of Himachal Pradesh

†580. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount sanctioned/allocated and released by Government during the last two years to Himachal Pradesh for RVPs, FPR, RAS and NWDPRA, the projects under the Ministry; and

(b) the target for providing aid to Himachal Pradesh under these projects in the forthcoming year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme called Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme and funds are released to the States/UTs on the basis of their Work Plans. The

†Orlginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.